21 ALOU Marchett, Victor

71CIA-RDP88-01350R000200400047-9 Rope Dances Approved For Release

Buck, James E.

MARCHETTI, Victor. The Rope-Dancer. 361p. Grosset. 1971. \$6.95. ISBN 0-448-02460-8. LC 73-158742. F

If 14 years in the CIA gives you the experience and knowledge on which to base a novel, it certainly does not imply that you have the talent to fulfill your base a novel, it certainly does not imply that you have the talent to fulfill your intent. That is exemplified in this work by a former CIA employee who has put together a weak mystery with weaker characters. Paul Franklin, an NIA agent, decides to provide high-level information to the Hungarians and eventually to the Russians. His motivations are slight, but he proceeds on his course. The author fails to make it seem so very perilous; the "rope dancer" comes off as a mere soft-shoe hoofer. At the end Franklin is shot by the Russians, and

the author states, "Then there was nothing." "Nothing" describes the book.—

James E. Buck, St. Joseph's College Library, Rensselaer, Ind.

This is an uncorrected proof of a review scheduled for Library Journal, Sept. 15, 1971